CLAIMS:

1. A method of forming a protective layer on a surface of a support, which protective layer comprises at least a first surface area (2) and a second surface area (1), which surface areas (1, 2) are distinguishable by virtue of the fact that said surface areas (1, 2) differ from each other in at least one visual property, which method comprises:

partially masking parts of said support outside said first surface area (2) with a mask layer which partially covers said support, and

subjecting said support to an electrochemical treatment (14, 20), wherein the first surface area (1) of said protective layer is formed in non-masked parts of said support,

characterized in that a sol-gel layer is provided as said mask layer, which forms said second surface area (2) of said protective layer.

2. A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the second surface area (2) covered by the mask is determined by providing more than said second surface area (2) with the sol-gel layer, and by removing, prior to the electrochemical treatment (14, 20), parts of the sol-gel layer that are situated outside said second surface area (2).

3. A method as claimed in claim 2, wherein the removal (11) of parts of the sol-gel layer is carried out by means of a laser beam.

4. A method as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, wherein, after the electrochemical treatment (14), a further area (3) of the sol-gel layer is removed, and said support is subjected to a further electrochemical treatment (20), wherein only said further area (3) from which sol-gel material is removed undergoes at least one substantial change of at least one visual property by subjecting it to said further electrochemical treatment (20).

5. A method as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, wherein said electrochemical treatment comprises anodizing.

6. A method as claimed in claim 5, wherein said surface area (2, 3) is sealed after the anodizing treatment.

7. A method as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, which further comprises engraving (17) said surface in both said first, electrochemically treated area (2) and said second area (1) covered with sol-gel material.

8. An object comprising an at least partly electroconductive support having a surface provided with a protective layer including at least a first surface area (2) whose protective layer is formed by an electrochemically formed outer layer and a second surface area (1), which surface areas (1, 2) are distinguishable by virtue of the fact that said surface areas (1, 2) are different in at least one visual property, characterized in that said protective layer in said second surface area (1) is embodied so as to be a sol-gel layer.

9. An object as claimed in claim 8, wherein the sol-gel layer is applied directly onto the support.

10. An object as claimed in claim 8 or 9, which object further comprises a third surface area (3) whose protective layer is formed by an electrochemically formed outer layer which differs from the electrochemically formed outer layer of the first surface area (2) in at least one visual property.

11. An object as claimed in any one of the claims 8 to 10, which object further comprises an engraving (3), which extends in both the electrochemically formed layer and the sol-gel layer.

12. An object as claimed in any one of the claims 8 to 11, wherein the support is at least partly made from aluminium, and the electrochemically formed layer is an anodized layer.

13. An electric shaver provided with an object as claimed in any one of the claims 8 to 12.